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14 and the putative class

15
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 DAVID RAMIREZ, an individual, on)
19 behalf of himself and all others)
20 similarly situated,)

21 Plaintiff,

22 v.

23 POWERHOUSE RETAIL
24 SERVICES, LLC

25 Defendants.
26
27
28

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff DAVID RAMIREZ (“Plaintiff”), by and through his attorneys, brings
2 this class action on behalf of himself, and the Class, as defined below, against
3 Defendant POWERHOUSE RETAIL SERVICES, LLC, (“Powerhouse” or
4 “Defendant”). Plaintiff hereby alleges, on information and belief, except for
5 information based on personal knowledge, which allegations are likely to have
6 evidentiary support after further investigation and discovery, as follows:

7 INTRODUCTION

8 1. Plaintiff brings this Class Action because of Defendant’s failure to
9 properly secure and safeguard the personal information of Plaintiff and other similarly
10 situated individuals who worked for Defendant.

11 2. Defendant provides a turnkey solution for commercial infrastructure
12 maintenance and enhancement services and employs numerous vendors to perform
13 work.

14 3. Plaintiff and all other persons similarly situated had a right to keep their
15 Personally Identifiable Information (“PII”) provided to Defendant confidential (the PII
16 provided to Defendant is collectively referred to as “Sensitive Information”). Plaintiff
17 and other members of the Class relied on Defendant to keep their Sensitive Information
18 confidential as required by the applicable laws.

19 4. Defendant violated this right. It failed to implement or follow reasonable
20 data security procedures as required by law and failed to protect Plaintiff and the
21 proposed Class members’ Sensitive Information from unauthorized access.

22 5. As a result of Defendant’s inadequate data security and inadequate or
23 negligent training of its employees, Plaintiff’s and other proposed Class members’
24 Sensitive Information, including their names and social security numbers were made
25 available on the dark web (“Data Breach”).

26 6. To date, Defendant has neither notified the impacted individuals nor a
27 state Attorney General of such breach.

28 7. The Data Breach was a direct result of Defendant’s failure to implement

adequate and reasonable cybersecurity procedures and protocols necessary to protect its vendors' Sensitive Information.

8. Defendant disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and Class members by, among other things, recklessly or negligently failing to take adequate and reasonable measures to ensure its data systems were protected against unauthorized intrusions; failing to disclose that it did not have reasonable or adequately robust computer systems and security practices to safeguard its vendors' Sensitive Information; failing to take standard and reasonably available steps to prevent the Data Breach; failing to monitor and timely detect the Data Breach; and failing to provide Plaintiff and Class members prompt and accurate notice of the Data Breach.

9. As a result of Defendant's failure to implement and follow reasonable security procedures, Class members' Sensitive Information is now exposed. Plaintiff and Class members have spent, and will continue to spend, significant amounts of time and money trying to protect themselves from the adverse ramifications of the Data Breach and dealing with actual fraud and will forever be at a heightened risk of identity theft and fraud.

10. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, alleges claims for (1) negligence; (2) invasion of privacy; (3) breach of implied contract; (4) breach of fiduciary duty; (5) breach of confidence; (6) violation of the California Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*); (7) violation of the California Customer Records Act ("CCRA") (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80, *et seq.*), and (8) violations of the California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA") (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.150, *et seq.*). Plaintiff and the Class members seek damages, including but not limited to nominal damages from Defendant, and to compel Defendant to adopt reasonably sufficient security practices to safeguard its vendors' Sensitive Information that remains in Defendant's custody to prevent incidents like the Data Breach from reoccurring in the future.

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1 maintenance and enhancement services and employs numerous vendors to perform
2 work.

3 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4 **A. Background**

5 19. Defendant provides a turnkey solution for commercial infrastructure
6 maintenance and enhancement services, and in the course of its business, it employed
7 and employs a significant number of vendors.

8 20. A common practice for employers, Defendant must keep its employees'
9 and vendors' Sensitive Information in its system. Defendant accomplishes this by
10 keeping the Sensitive Information electronically—even in its email systems.

11 21. As an employer, Defendant is required to ensure that such sensitive,
12 personal information is not disclosed or disseminated to unauthorized third parties
13 without the individual's express, written consent, as further detailed below.

14 **B. The Data Breach**

15 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant's current and former vendors'
16 Sensitive Information was recently found on the dark web. Defendant has neither
17 notified the impacted individuals nor a state Attorney General of such breach. It is
18 unknown how long such information has been available on the dark web.

19 23. Defendant failed to put in place proper security protocols to protect against
20 the unauthorized release of vendor information and failed to properly train its
21 employees on such protocols, resulting in the unauthorized release of private data. As
22 a result of Defendant's failures, Plaintiff and the Class members' Sensitive Information
23 was accessed and viewed by unknown and unauthorized third parties and is available
24 on the dark web. This means that the Data Breach was successful: unauthorized
25 individuals accessed Plaintiff's and the Class members' unencrypted, unredacted
26 information set forth above.

27 24. Plaintiff learned that his Sensitive Information, including his name and
28 social security number was compromised and is available on the dark web.

1 25. This kind of Sensitive Information is highly valued by criminals, as
2 evidenced by the prices they will pay through the dark web. Numerous sources cite
3 dark web pricing for stolen identity credentials. For example, personal information can
4 be sold at a price ranging from \$40 to \$200. Social Security numbers are especially
5 valuable to identity thieves.

6 **C. Plaintiff's Exposure**

7 26. Knowing that thieves stole his Sensitive Information and knowing that his
8 Sensitive Information may now or in the future be available for sale on the dark web
9 has caused Plaintiff great anxiety. He is now very concerned about fraud and identity
10 theft.

11 27. Plaintiff suffered actual injury from having his Sensitive Information
12 exposed as a result of the Data Breach including, but not limited to: (a) damages to
13 and diminution in the value of his Sensitive Information—a form of intangible property
14 that Plaintiff entrusted to Defendant as a condition for employment; (b) loss of his
15 privacy; (c) imminent and impending injury arising from the increased risk of fraud
16 and identity theft; and (d) the time and expense of mitigation efforts as a result of the
17 Data Breach.

18 28. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff will continue to be at heightened
19 risk for financial fraud, and identity theft, and the attendant damages, for years to come.

20 **D. Defendant Knew or Should Have Known of the Risk Because Large** 21 **Employers are Particularly Susceptible to Cyber Attacks.**

22 29. The number of U.S. data breaches surpassed 1,000 in 2016—a record high
23 and a 40 percent increase in the number of data breaches from the previous year.¹ In
24 2017, 1,579 breaches were reported—a new record high and a 44.7 percent increase in
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26 ¹ Identity Theft Resource Center, *Data Breaches Increase 40 Percent in 2016, Finds*
27 *New Report from Identity Theft Resource Center and CyberScout* (Jan. 19, 2017),
28 available at: [https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/data-breaches-increase-40-](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/data-breaches-increase-40-percent-in-2016-finds-new-report-from-identity-theft-resource-center-and-cyberscout-300393208.html)
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 [cyberscout-300393208.html](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/data-breaches-increase-40-percent-in-2016-finds-new-report-from-identity-theft-resource-center-and-cyberscout-300393208.html) (last accessed March 10, 2024).

1 just one year.² That trend continues.

2 30. Defendant knew and understood that unprotected or exposed Sensitive
3 Information in the custody of employers, such as Defendant, is valuable and highly
4 sought after by nefarious third parties seeking to illegally monetize that Sensitive
5 Information through unauthorized access. Indeed, when compromised, highly
6 confidential related data is among the most sensitive and personally consequential.
7 Data breaches and identity theft have a crippling effect on individuals, and
8 detrimentally impacts the economy as a whole.

9 31. As an employer, Defendant knew, or should have known, the importance
10 of safeguarding Sensitive Information entrusted to it by Plaintiff and Class members,
11 and of the foreseeable consequences if its data security systems were breached. This
12 includes the significant costs imposed on Plaintiff and Class members as a result of a
13 breach. Defendant failed, however, to take adequate cybersecurity measures to prevent
14 the Data Breach.

15 **E. Defendant Acquires, Collects, and Stores Plaintiff's and Class Members'**
16 **PII.**

17 32. Defendant acquires, collects, and stores a massive amount of its vendors'
18 protected confidential information and other personally identifiable data.

19 33. As a condition of engaging in employment as vendors, Defendant requires
20 its vendors to entrust it with highly confidential Sensitive Information.

21 34. By acquiring, obtaining, collecting, using, and deriving a benefit from
22 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information, Defendant assumed legal and
23 equitable duties, and knew or should have known it was responsible for protecting
24 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information from disclosure.

25 35. Plaintiff and Class members have taken reasonable steps to maintain the
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27 ² Identity Theft Resource Center, *2017 Annual Data Breach Year-End Review*,
28 *available at*:

<https://www.idtheftcenter.org/images/breach/2017Breaches/2017AnnualDataBreachYearEndReview.pdf> (last accessed March 10, 2024).

1 confidentiality of their Sensitive Information. Plaintiff and Class members relied on
2 Defendant to keep their Sensitive Information confidential and securely maintained, to
3 use this information for business purposes only, to only allow authorized disclosures
4 of this information, and prevent unauthorized disclosure of the information.

5 **F. The Value of PII and the Effects of Unauthorized Disclosure.**

6 36. Defendant was well aware of the highly private nature of the Sensitive
7 Information it collects and its significant value to those who would use it for wrongful
8 purposes.

9 37. Sensitive Information is a valuable commodity to identity thieves. As the
10 FTC recognizes, identity thieves can commit an array of crimes including identify theft,
11 medical fraud, and financial fraud.³ Indeed, a robust “cyber black market” exists in
12 which criminals openly post stolen PII on multiple underground Internet websites,
13 commonly referred to as the dark web.

14 38. The ramifications of Defendant’s failure to keep Plaintiff’s and Class
15 members’ Sensitive Information secure are long lasting and severe. Once Sensitive
16 Information is stolen, fraudulent use of that information and damage to victims may
17 continue for years.

18 39. At all relevant times, Defendant knew, or reasonably should have known,
19 of the importance of safeguarding Sensitive Information and of the foreseeable
20 consequences if its data security systems were breached, including the significant costs
21 that would be imposed on its employees as a result of a breach.

22 **G. Defendant Failed to Comply with FTC Guidelines.**

23 40. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) promulgates numerous guides for
24 businesses highlighting the importance of implementing reasonable data security
25 practices. According to the FTC, the need for data security should be factored into all
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27 ³ Federal Trade Commission, *Warning Signs of Identity Theft*, available at:
28 <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0271-warning-signs-identity-theft> (last
accessed March 10, 2024).

1 business decision-making.⁴

2 41. In 2016, the FTC updated its publication, *Protecting Personal Information:*
3 *A Guide for Business*, which established cybersecurity guidelines for businesses.⁵ The
4 guidelines note that businesses should protect the personal customer information they
5 keep; properly dispose of personal information that is no longer needed; encrypt
6 information stored on computer networks; understand their network's vulnerabilities;
7 and implement policies to correct any security problems.

8 42. The FTC further recommends companies not maintain PII longer than is
9 needed for authorization of a transaction; limit access to sensitive data; require complex
10 passwords to be used on networks; use industry-tested methods for security; monitor
11 for suspicious activity on the network; and verify third-party service providers have
12 implemented reasonable security measures.⁶

13 43. The FTC brings enforcement actions against businesses for failing to
14 adequately and reasonably protect customer data, treating the failure to employ
15 reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized access to
16 confidential consumer data as an unfair act or practice prohibited by Section 5 of the
17 Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 45. Orders resulting from these
18 actions further clarify the measures businesses must take to meet their data security
19 obligations.

20 44. Defendant failed to properly implement basic data security practices.
21 Defendant's failure to employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against
22 unauthorized access to employees' Sensitive Information constitutes an unfair act or
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24 ⁴ Federal Trade Commission, *Start With Security*, available at:
25 [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf0205-](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf0205-startwithsecurity.pdf)
26 [startwithsecurity.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf0205-startwithsecurity.pdf) (last accessed March 10, 2024).

27 ⁵ Federal Trade Commission, *Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for*
28 *Business*, available at [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf)
[language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf) (last accessed March 10, 2024).

⁶ FTC, *Start With Security*, *supra*.

1 practice prohibited by Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

2 45. Defendant was at all times fully aware of its obligation to protect Plaintiff's
3 and Class members' Sensitive Information because of Defendant's position as a trusted
4 and experienced employer. Defendant was also aware of the significant repercussions
5 that would result from its failure to do so.

6 **H. Defendant Failed to Comply with Industry Standards.**

7 46. Defendant failed to implement several basic cybersecurity safeguards that
8 can be implemented to improve cyber resilience and require a relatively small financial
9 investment yet can have a major impact on an organization's cybersecurity posture
10 including: (a) the proper encryption of PII; (b) educating and training employees on
11 how to protect PII; and (c) correcting the configuration of software and network
12 devices.

13 47. Private cybersecurity firms have also identified businesses as being
14 particularly vulnerable to cyber-attacks, both because of the value of the PII they
15 maintain and because employees have been slow to adapt and respond to cybersecurity
16 threats.⁷ These private cybersecurity firms have also promulgated similar best practices
17 for bolstering cybersecurity and protecting against the unauthorized disclosure of PII.

18 48. Despite the abundance and availability of information regarding the threats
19 and cybersecurity best practices to defend against those threats, Defendant chose to
20 ignore them. These best practices were known, or should have been known by
21 Defendant, whose failure to heed and properly implement industry standards directly
22 led to the Data Breach and the unlawful exposure of Sensitive Information.

23 **I. Plaintiff and Class Members Suffered Damages.**

24 49. The ramifications of Defendant's failure to keep Plaintiff's and Class
25 members' Sensitive Information secure are long lasting and severe. Once that kind of
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27 ⁷ Stickman Cyber, *Why Cybersecurity In The Workplace Is Everyone's*
28 *Responsibility*, available at: [https://www.stickmancyber.com/cybersecurity-
blog/why-cybersecurity-in-the-workplace-is-everyones-responsibility](https://www.stickmancyber.com/cybersecurity-blog/why-cybersecurity-in-the-workplace-is-everyones-responsibility) (last accessed
March 10, 2024).

1 Sensitive Information is stolen, fraudulent use of that information and damage to
2 victims may continue for years. Consumer victims of data breaches are more likely to
3 become victims of identity fraud.

4 50. The Sensitive Information belonging to Plaintiff and Class members is
5 private, sensitive in nature, and left inadequately protected by Defendant—who did not
6 obtain Plaintiff’s or Class members’ consent to disclose such Sensitive Information to
7 any other person as required by applicable law and industry standards.

8 51. The Data Breach was a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s failure
9 to: (a) properly safeguard and protect Plaintiff’s and Class members’ Sensitive
10 Information from unauthorized access, use, and disclosure, as required by various state
11 and federal regulations, industry practices, and common law; (b) establish and
12 implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to ensure the
13 security and confidentiality of Plaintiff’s and Class members’ Sensitive Information;
14 and (c) protect against reasonably foreseeable threats to the security or integrity of such
15 information.

16 52. Defendant had the resources necessary to prevent the Data Breach, but
17 neglected to adequately implement data security measures, despite its obligation to
18 protect member data.

19 53. Defendant could have prevented the intrusions into its systems and,
20 ultimately, the theft of Sensitive Information if Defendant had remedied the
21 deficiencies in its data security systems and adopted security measures recommended
22 by experts in the field.

23 54. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s wrongful actions and
24 inactions, Plaintiff and Class members are now in imminent, immediate, and
25 continuing increased risk of harm from identity theft and fraud, requiring them to
26 dedicate time and resources which they otherwise would have dedicated to other life
27 demands, such as work and family, to mitigate the actual and potential impact of the
28 Data Breach on their lives.

1 55. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics found that
2 “among victims who had personal information used for fraudulent purposes, 29% spent
3 a month or more resolving problems,” and that “resolving the problems caused by
4 identity theft may take more than a year for some victims.”⁸

5 56. As a direct result of the Defendant’s failures to prevent the Data Breach,
6 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, will suffer, and are at increased risk of
7 suffering:

- 8 a. The compromise, publication, theft and/or unauthorized use of their
9 Sensitive Information;
- 10 b. Out-of-pocket costs associated with the prevention, detection, recovery,
11 and remediation from identity theft or fraud;
- 12 c. Lost opportunity costs and lost wages associated with efforts expended
13 and loss of productivity from addressing and attempting to mitigate actual
14 and future consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to
15 researching how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from identity theft
16 and fraud;
- 17 d. The continued risk to their Sensitive Information, which remains in the
18 possession of Defendant and is subject to further breaches so long as
19 Defendant fails to undertake appropriate measures to protect the Sensitive
20 Information in its possession; and
- 21 e. Current and future costs in terms of time, effort, and money that will be
22 expended to prevent, detect, contest, remediate, and repair the impact of
23 the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and Class
24 members.

25 57. In addition to a remedy for the economic harm, Plaintiff and Class
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27 ⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics,
28 *Victims of Identity Theft*, 2012, December 2013, *available at*:
<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/vit12.pdf> (last accessed March 10, 2024).

1 members maintain an undeniable interest in ensuring their Sensitive Information is
2 secure, remains secure, and is not subject to further misappropriation and theft.

3 **J. Defendant's Delay in Identifying & Reporting the Breach Caused**
4 **Additional Harm.**

5 58. It is axiomatic that:

6 The quicker a financial institution, credit card issuer, wireless carrier or
7 other service provider is notified that fraud has occurred on an account,
8 the sooner these organizations can act to limit the damage. Early
9 notification can also help limit the liability of a victim in some cases, as
10 well as allow more time for law enforcement to catch the fraudsters in the
11 act.⁹

12 59. Indeed, once a data breach has occurred:

13 [o]ne thing that does matter is hearing about a data breach quickly. That
14 alerts consumers to keep a tight watch on credit card bills, insurance
15 invoices, and suspicious emails. It can prompt them to change passwords
16 and freeze credit reports. And notifying officials can help them catch
17 cybercriminals and warn other businesses of emerging dangers. If
18 consumers don't know about a breach because it wasn't reported, they
19 can't take action to protect themselves (internal citations omitted).¹⁰

20 60. Although their Sensitive Information was improperly exposed, Plaintiff
21 and Class members have still not been notified of the Data Breach, depriving Plaintiff
22

23 ⁹ *Identity Fraud Hits Record High with 15.4 Million U.S. Victims in 2016, Up 16*
24 *Percent According to New Javelin Strategy & Research Study*, Business Wire,
25 *available at:*

26 <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170201005166/en/Identity-Fraud-Hits-Record-High-15.4-Million> (last accessed March 10, 2024).

27 ¹⁰ Consumer Reports, *The Data Breach Next Door: Security breaches don't just hit*
28 *giants like Equifax and Marriott. Breaches at small companies put consumers at risk,*
too, January 31, 2019, *available at:* <https://www.consumerreports.org/data-theft/the-data-breach-next-door/> (last accessed March 10, 2024).

1 and Class members of the ability to promptly mitigate potential adverse consequences
2 resulting from the Data Breach.

3 61. As a result of Defendant's delay in detecting and notifying consumers of
4 the Data Breach, there is an increased risk of fraud for Plaintiff and Class members.

5 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

6 62. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the
7 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of the following Class and Subclass:

8
9 All individuals whose Sensitive Information stored or possessed by
10 Defendant was subject to the Data Breach (the "Class").

11
12 All California residents whose Sensitive Information stored or
13 possessed by Defendant was subject to the Data Breach
14 (the "California Subclass").

15
16 63. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, its officers and directors, families
17 and legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns and any entity in which
18 Defendant has a controlling interest, and any Judge assigned to this case and their
19 immediate families.

20 64. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the definition of the Class
21 and/or Subclass to provide greater specificity and/or further division into subclasses or
22 limitation to particular issues.

23 65. **Numerosity:** The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all
24 members is impracticable. The exact number or identification of class members is
25 presently unknown, but it is believed that there are hundreds if not thousands of class
26 members in the Class. The identities of the Class Members are ascertainable and can
27 be determined based on records maintained by Defendant.

28 66. **Predominance of Common Questions:** There are multiple questions of

1 law and fact common to the Class that will predominate over questions affecting only
2 individual class members. The questions of fact and law that are common to the Class
3 members and predominate over questions that may affect individual Class members,
4 include:

- 5 a) Whether Plaintiff's and the Class members' Sensitive Information was
6 accessed and/or viewed by one or more unauthorized persons in the Data
7 Breach alleged above;
- 8 b) When and how Defendant should have learned and actually learned of the
9 Data Breach;
- 10 c) Whether Defendant's response to the Data Breach was adequate;
- 11 d) Whether Defendant owed a duty to the Class to exercise due care in
12 collecting, storing, safeguarding and/or obtaining their Sensitive
13 Information;
- 14 e) Whether Defendant breached that duty;
- 15 f) Whether Defendant implemented and maintained reasonable security
16 procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of storing Plaintiff's
17 and Class members' Sensitive Information;
- 18 g) Whether Defendant acted negligently in connection with the monitoring
19 and/or protecting of Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information;
- 20 h) Whether Defendant knew or should have known that it did not employ
21 reasonable measures to keep Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive
22 Information secure and prevent loss or misuse of that Sensitive
23 Information;
- 24 i) Whether Defendant adequately addressed and fixed the vulnerabilities
25 which permitted the Data Breach to occur;
- 26 j) Whether Defendant caused Plaintiff and Class members damages;
- 27 k) Whether Defendant violated the law by failing to promptly notify Class
28 members their Sensitive Information was compromised;

- 1) Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to actual damages, nominal and/or statutory damages, credit monitoring, other monetary relief, and/or equitable relief;
- m) Whether Defendant violated the California Unfair Competition Law (Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.);
- n) Whether Defendant violated the California Customer Records Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80, et seq.);
- o) Whether Defendant violated the California Consumer Privacy Act (“CCPA”) (Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.100, et seq.).

67. **Typicality:** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of those of other Class members because all had their Sensitive Information compromised because of the Data Breach, due to Defendant’s virtually identical conduct.

68. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class because he is a member of the Class and his interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the Class he seeks to represent. Plaintiff is represented by experienced and competent Class Counsel. Class Counsel have litigated numerous class actions. Class counsel intend to prosecute this action vigorously for the benefit of everyone in the Class. Plaintiff and Class Counsel can fairly and adequately protect the interests of all of the members of the Class.

69. **Superiority:** The class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating this controversy because individual litigation of Class members’ claims would be impracticable and individual litigation would be unduly burdensome to the courts. Without the class action vehicle, the Class would have no reasonable remedy and would continue to suffer losses. Further, individual litigation has the potential to result in inconsistent or contradictory judgments. There is no foreseeable difficulty in managing this action as a class action and it provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

1 **First Cause of Action**

2 **Negligence**

3 **[On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class]**

4 70. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
5 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
6 forth herein.

7 71. Defendant's own negligent conduct created a foreseeable risk of harm to
8 Plaintiff and Class members. Defendant's negligence included, but was not limited to,
9 its failure to take the steps and opportunities to prevent the Data Breach as set forth
10 herein. Defendant's negligence also included its decision not to comply with
11 (1) industry standards, and/or best practices for the safekeeping and encrypted
12 authorized disclosure of the Sensitive Information of Plaintiff and Class members; or
13 (2) Section 5 of the FTC Act.

14 72. Defendant had a duty to exercise reasonable care in safeguarding,
15 securing and protecting such information from being compromised, lost, stolen,
16 misused, and/or disclosed to unauthorized parties. This duty includes, among other
17 things, designing, maintaining and testing its security protocols to ensure Sensitive
18 Information in Defendant's possession was adequately secured and protected, and
19 that employees tasked with maintaining such information were adequately trained on
20 relevant cybersecurity measures. Defendant also had a duty to put proper procedures
21 in place to prevent the unauthorized dissemination of Plaintiff's and Class members'
22 Sensitive Information.

23 73. As a condition of employment, Plaintiff and Class members were
24 obligated to provide Defendant directly with their Sensitive Information. As such,
25 Plaintiff and the Class members entrusted their Sensitive Information to Defendant
26 with the understanding that Defendant would safeguard their information.

27 74. Defendant was in a position to protect against the harm suffered by
28 Plaintiff and Class members as a result of the Data Breach. However, Plaintiff and

1 Class members had no ability to protect their Sensitive Information in Defendant's
2 possession.

3 75. Defendant had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the Sensitive
4 Information, and the types of harm Plaintiff and Class members could, would, and
5 will suffer if the Sensitive Information were wrongfully disclosed.

6 76. Plaintiff and Class members were the foreseeable and probable victims of
7 Defendant's negligent and inadequate security practices and procedures that led to the
8 Data Breach. Defendant knew or should have known of the inherent risks in
9 collecting and storing the highly valuable Sensitive Information of Plaintiff and Class
10 members, the critical importance of providing adequate security of that Sensitive
11 Information, the current cyber security risks being perpetrated, and that Defendant
12 had inadequate employee training, monitoring and education and IT security
13 protocols in place to secure the Sensitive Information of Plaintiff and Class members.

14 77. Defendant negligently, through their actions and/or omissions, and
15 unlawfully breached their duty to Plaintiff and Class members by failing to exercise
16 reasonable care in protecting and safeguarding Plaintiff's and Class members'
17 Sensitive Information while the data was within Defendant's possession and/or
18 control by failing to comply with and/or deviating from standard industry rules,
19 regulations, and practices at the time of the Data Breach.

20 78. The harm the Data Breach caused is the type of harm privacy laws were
21 intended to guard against. And Plaintiff and Class members are within the class of
22 persons privacy laws were intended to protect.

23 79. Defendant negligently failed to comply with privacy laws by failing to
24 protect against and prevent the dissemination of Plaintiff's and Class members'
25 Sensitive Information to unauthorized third parties.

26 80. Defendant's violations of Section 5 of the FTC Act also constitute
27 negligence. Section 5 of the FTC Act prohibits "unfair . . . practices in or affecting
28 commerce," including, as interpreted and enforced by the FTC, the unfair act or

1 practice by businesses, such as Defendant, of failing to use reasonable measures to
2 protect Sensitive Information. The FTC publications and orders described above also
3 form part of the basis of Defendant's duty in this regard.

4 81. Defendant violated Section 5 of the FTC Act by failing to use reasonable
5 measures to protect Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information and not
6 complying with applicable industry standards, as described in detail herein.
7 Defendant's conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of
8 Sensitive Information it acquired, obtained, and stored, and the foreseeable
9 consequences of a data breach including, specifically, the damages that would result
10 to Plaintiff and Class members.

11 82. Plaintiff and Class members are within the class of persons the FTC Act
12 was intended to protect.

13 83. The harm the Data Breach caused, and continues to cause, is the type of
14 harm the FTC Act was intended to guard against. The FTC pursues enforcement
15 actions against businesses, which, as a result of their failure to employ reasonable
16 data security measures and avoid unfair and deceptive practices, caused the same
17 harm as that suffered by Plaintiff and Class members.

18 84. Defendant, through its actions and/or omissions, unlawfully breached its
19 duty to Plaintiff and Class members by failing to have appropriate procedures in
20 place to detect and prevent unauthorized dissemination of Plaintiff's and Class
21 members' Sensitive Information.

22 85. Defendant, through its actions and/or omissions, unlawfully breached its
23 duty to adequately disclose to Plaintiff and Class members the existence and scope of
24 the Data Breach.

25 86. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breach of duties owed to
26 Plaintiff and Class members, Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information
27 would not have been compromised.

28 87. There is a temporal and close causal connection between Defendant's

1 failure to implement security measures to protect the Sensitive Information and the
2 harm suffered, and/or risk of imminent harm suffered, by Plaintiff and Class
3 members.

4 88. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff and
5 Class members have suffered, and continue to suffer, injuries and damages arising
6 from the Data Breach, including, but not limited to: damages from lost time and
7 efforts to mitigate the actual and potential impact of the Data Breach on their lives,
8 including, *inter alia*, by placing "freezes" and "alerts" with credit reporting agencies,
9 contacting their financial institutions, closing or modifying financial accounts, closely
10 reviewing and monitoring their credit reports and various accounts for unauthorized
11 activity, filing police reports, and damages from identity theft, which may take
12 months—if not years—to discover, detect, and remedy.

13 89. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence,
14 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and will continue to suffer, the continued
15 risks of exposure of their Sensitive Information, which remains in Defendant's
16 possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant
17 fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Sensitive
18 Information in its continued possession.

19 **Second Cause of Action**

20 **Invasion of Privacy**

21 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

22 90. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
23 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
24 forth herein.

25 91. Plaintiff and Class members had a legitimate expectation of privacy with
26 respect to their Sensitive Information and were accordingly entitled to the protection
27 of this information against disclosure to unauthorized third parties.
28

1 92. Defendant owed a duty to its vendors, including Plaintiff and Class
2 members, to keep their Sensitive Information confidential.

3 93. The unauthorized release of Sensitive Information, especially social
4 security numbers, is highly offensive to a reasonable person.

5 94. The intrusion was into a place or thing, which was private and is entitled
6 to be private. Plaintiff and Class members disclosed their Sensitive Information to
7 Defendant as part of their employment, but privately, with the intention that the
8 Sensitive Information would be kept confidential and protected from unauthorized
9 disclosure. Plaintiff and Class members were reasonable in their belief that such
10 information would be kept private and would not be disclosed without their
11 authorization.

12 95. The Data Breach constitutes an intentional interference with Plaintiff's
13 and Class members' interest in solitude or seclusion, either as to their persons or as to
14 their private affairs or concerns, of a kind that would be highly offensive to a
15 reasonable person.

16 96. Defendant acted with a knowing state of mind when it permitted the Data
17 Breach because it knew their information security practices were inadequate.

18 97. Acting with knowledge, Defendant had notice and knew its inadequate
19 cybersecurity practices would cause injury to Plaintiff and Class members.

20 98. As a proximate result of Defendant's acts and omissions, Plaintiff and
21 Class members' Sensitive Information were disclosed to, and used by, third parties
22 without authorization, causing Plaintiff and Class members to suffer damages.

23 99. Unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court,
24 Defendant's wrongful conduct will continue to cause great and irreparable injury to
25 Plaintiff and Class members in that the Sensitive Information maintained by
26 Defendant may be breached again, leading to further viewing, distributing, and use of
27 updated and additional Sensitive Information by unauthorized persons.
28

1 100. Plaintiff and Class members have no adequate remedy at law for the
2 injuries in that a judgment for monetary damages will not end the invasion of privacy
3 for Plaintiff and Class members.

4 **Third Cause of Action**

5 **Breach of Implied Contract**
6 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

7 101. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
8 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
9 forth herein.

10 102. Plaintiff and Class members were required to provide their Sensitive
11 Information, including their names, social security numbers and various other
12 information to Defendant as a condition of employment.

13 103. Plaintiff and Class members were paid money by Defendant in exchange
14 for services, along with Defendant's promise to protect their Sensitive Information
15 and other Sensitive Information from unauthorized disclosure.

16 104. In their written privacy policies, Defendant expressly promised Plaintiff
17 and Class members that they would only disclose protected information and other
18 Sensitive Information under certain circumstances, none of which relate to the Data
19 Breach.

20 105. Defendant promised to comply with privacy standards, and to make sure
21 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information would remain protected.

22 106. Implicit in the agreement between Plaintiff and Class members on the one
23 hand, and the Defendant on the other, regarding providing protected Sensitive
24 Information, was Defendant's obligation to: (a) use such Sensitive Information for
25 business purposes only; (b) take reasonable steps to safeguard that Sensitive
26 Information; (c) prevent unauthorized disclosures of the Sensitive Information;
27 (d) provide Plaintiff and Class members with prompt and sufficient notice of any and
28 all unauthorized access and/or theft of their Sensitive Information; (e) reasonably

1 safeguard and protect the Sensitive Information of Plaintiff and Class members from
2 unauthorized disclosure or uses; and (f) retain the Sensitive Information only under
3 conditions that kept such information secure and confidential.

4 107. Without such implied contracts, Plaintiff and Class members would not
5 have provided their Sensitive Information to Defendant.

6 108. Plaintiff and Class members fully performed their obligations under the
7 implied contract with Defendant. However, Defendant did not.

8 109. Defendant breached the implied contracts with Plaintiff and Class
9 members by failing to:

10 a. Reasonably safeguard and protect Plaintiff's and Class members'
11 Sensitive Information, which was compromised as a result of the Data
12 Breach; and

13 b. Identify and respond to suspected or known security incidents.

14 110. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of the implied
15 contracts, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and continue to suffer, injuries
16 and damages arising from the Data Breach including, but not limited to: damages
17 from lost time and effort to mitigate the actual and potential impact of the Data
18 Breach on their lives, including, *inter alia*, by placing "freezes" and "alerts" with
19 credit reporting agencies, contacting their financial institutions, closing or modifying
20 financial accounts, closely reviewing and monitoring their credit reports and various
21 accounts for unauthorized activity, filing police reports, and damages from identity
22 theft, which may take months if not years to discover, detect, and remedy.

23 **Fourth Cause of Action**

24 **Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

25 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

26 111. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
27 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
28 forth herein.

1 112. In light of their special relationship, Defendant became the guardian of
2 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information. Defendant became a fiduciary,
3 created by its undertaking and guardianship of Plaintiff's and Class members'
4 Sensitive Information, to act primarily for the benefit of Plaintiff and Class members.
5 This duty included the obligation to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class members'
6 Sensitive Information, and to timely notify them in the event of a data breach.

7 113. Defendant has a fiduciary duty to act for the benefit of Plaintiff and Class
8 members upon matters within the scope of their relationship. Defendant breached its
9 fiduciary duties owed to Plaintiff and Class members by failing to:

- 10 a. Properly encrypt and otherwise protect the integrity of the system
11 containing Plaintiff's and Class members' protected confidential
12 information and other Sensitive Information;
- 13 b. Timely notify and/or warn Plaintiff and Class members of the Data
14 Breach; and
- 15 c. Otherwise failing to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive
16 Information.

17 114. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of its fiduciary
18 duties, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and will suffer, injury, including
19 but not limited to: (a) actual identity theft; (b) the loss of the opportunity to control
20 how their Sensitive Information is used; (c) the compromise, publication, and/or theft
21 of their Sensitive Information; (d) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the
22 prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft and/or unauthorized use of
23 their Sensitive Information; (e) lost opportunity costs associated with the effort
24 expended and the loss of productivity addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual
25 and future consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to efforts spent
26 researching how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from identity theft; (f) the
27 continued risk to their Sensitive Information, which remain in Defendant's possession
28 and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to

1 undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect its employees' Sensitive
2 Information in continued possession; and (g) future costs in terms of time, effort, and
3 money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of the
4 Sensitive Information compromised as a result of the Data Breach for the remainder
5 of the lives of Plaintiff and Class members.

6 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of its fiduciary
7 duty, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and will continue to suffer, other
8 forms of injury and/or harm, and other economic and non-economic losses.

9 **Fifth Cause of Action**

10 **Breach of Confidence**

11 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

12 116. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
13 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
14 forth herein.

15 117. At all times during Plaintiff's and Class members' interactions with
16 Defendant, Defendant was fully aware of the confidential and sensitive nature of
17 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information that Plaintiff and Class
18 members provided to Defendant.

19 118. As alleged herein and above, Defendant's relationship with Plaintiff and
20 Class members was governed by terms and expectations that Plaintiff's and Class
21 members' Sensitive Information would be collected, stored, and protected in
22 confidence, and would not be disclosed to unauthorized third parties.

23 119. Plaintiff and Class members provided their respective Sensitive
24 Information to Defendant with the explicit and implicit understandings that
25 Defendant would protect and not permit the Sensitive Information to be disseminated
26 to any unauthorized parties.

27 120. Plaintiff and Class members also provided their Sensitive Information to
28 Defendant with the explicit and implicit understandings that Defendant would take

1 precautions to protect that Sensitive Information from unauthorized disclosure, such
2 as following basic principles of protecting their networks and data systems, including
3 Defendant's employees' systems.

4 121. Defendant required and voluntarily received, in confidence, Plaintiff's
5 and Class members' Sensitive Information with the understanding that the Sensitive
6 Information would not be disclosed or disseminated to the public or any unauthorized
7 third parties.

8 122. Due to Defendant's failure to prevent, detect, and avoid the Data Breach
9 from occurring by, *inter alia*, following best information security practices to secure
10 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information, Plaintiff's and Class members'
11 Sensitive Information was disclosed to, and misappropriated by, unauthorized third
12 parties beyond Plaintiff's and Class members' confidence, and without their express
13 permission.

14 123. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions and/or omissions,
15 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and will continue to suffer damages.

16 124. But for Defendant's disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class members'
17 Sensitive Information in violation of the parties' understanding of confidence,
18 Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information would not have been
19 compromised, stolen, viewed, accessed, and used by unauthorized third parties.
20 Defendant's Data Breach was the direct and legal cause of the theft of Plaintiff's and
21 Class members' Sensitive Information, as well as the resulting damages.

22 125. The injury and harm Plaintiff and Class members suffered, and continue
23 to suffer, was the reasonably foreseeable result of Defendant's unauthorized
24 disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information. Defendant knew
25 its computer systems and technologies for accepting and securing Plaintiff's and
26 Class members' Sensitive Information had numerous security and other
27 vulnerabilities placing Plaintiff's and Class members' Sensitive Information in
28 jeopardy.

126. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of confidence, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (a) actual identity theft; (b) the compromise, publication, and/or theft of their Sensitive Information; (c) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft and/or unauthorized use of their Sensitive Information; (d) lost opportunity costs associated with effort expended and the loss of productivity addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual and future consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to efforts spent researching how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from identity theft; (e) the continued risk to their Sensitive Information, which remains in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Sensitive Information in its continued possession; (f) future costs in terms of time, effort, and money that will be expended as result of the Data Breach for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and Class members; and (g) the diminished value of Defendant's services they received.

127. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of their fiduciary duties, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury and/or harm, and other economic and non-economic losses.

Sixth Cause of Action

**Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law,
Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*--Unfair Business Practices
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass)**

128. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

129. Defendant violated Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*, by engaging

1 in unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business acts and practices, that constitute acts of
2 “unfair competition” as defined in Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

3 130. Defendant engaged in unlawful and unfair acts and practices by
4 establishing the sub-standard security practices and procedures described herein; by
5 soliciting and collecting Plaintiff’s and Class members’ Sensitive Information with
6 knowledge the information would not be adequately protected; and by storing
7 Plaintiff’s and Class members’ Sensitive Information in an unsecure electronic
8 environment in violation of California’s data breach statute, Cal. Civ. Code §
9 1798.81.5, which requires Defendant to take reasonable methods of safeguarding the
10 Sensitive Information of Plaintiff and Class members.

11 131. In addition, Defendant engaged in unlawful acts and practices by failing
12 to disclose the Data Breach in a timely and accurate manner, contrary to the duties
13 imposed by Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.82.

14 132. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unlawful and unfair
15 practices and acts, Plaintiff and Class members were injured and lost money or
16 property, including but not limited to the loss of Plaintiff’s and Class members’
17 legally protected interest in the confidentiality and privacy of their Sensitive
18 Information, nominal damages, and additional losses as described herein.

19 133. Defendant knew or should have known that its computer systems and
20 data security practices were inadequate to safeguard Plaintiff’s and Class members’
21 Sensitive Information and that the risk of a data breach or theft was highly likely.
22 Defendant’s actions in engaging in the above-named unlawful practices and acts
23 were negligent, knowing, and willful, and/or wanton and reckless with respect to the
24 rights of Plaintiff and Class members.

25 134. Plaintiff, on behalf of the Class, seeks relief under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code
26 § 17200, *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, restitution to Plaintiff and Class
27 members of money or property Defendant may have acquired by means of
28 Defendant’s unlawful, and unfair business practices, restitutionary disgorgement of

1 all monies that accrued to Defendant because of Defendant's unlawful and unfair
2 business practices, declaratory relief, attorneys' fees and costs (pursuant to Cal. Code
3 Civ. Proc. § 1021.5), and injunctive or other equitable relief.

4 **Seventh Cause of Action**

5 **Violation of the California Customer Records Act ("CCRA")**

6 **Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.80, *et seq.***

7 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass)**

8 135. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
9 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
10 forth herein.

11 136. Section 1798.82 of the California Civil Code requires any "person or
12 business that conducts business in California, and that owns or licenses computerized
13 data that includes personal information" to "disclose any breach of the security of the
14 system following discovery or notification of the breach in the security of the data to
15 any resident of California whose unencrypted personal information was, or is
16 reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person." Under
17 section 1798.82, the disclosure "shall be made in the most expedient time possible
18 and without unreasonable delay."

19 137. The CCRA further provides: "Any person or business that maintains
20 computerized data that includes personal information that the person or business does
21 not own shall notify the owner or licensee of the information of any breach of the
22 security of the data immediately following discovery, if the personal information was,
23 or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person." (Cal.
24 Civ. Code § 1798.82(b).)

25 138. Any person or business required to issue a security breach notification
26 under the CCRA shall meet the following requirements:

- 27 a. The security breach notification shall be written in plain language;
28 b. The security breach notification shall include, at a minimum, the

1 following information:

- 2 i. The name and contact information of the reporting person or
3 business subject to this section;
- 4 ii. A list of the types of personal information that were or are
5 reasonably believed to have been the subject of a breach;
- 6 iii. If the information is possible to determine at the time the
7 notice is provided, then any of the following:
 - 8 1. The date of the breach;
 - 9 2. The estimated date of the breach; or
 - 10 3. The date range within which the breach occurred. The
11 notification shall also include the date of the notice.
- 12 iv. Whether notification was delayed as a result of a law
13 enforcement investigation, if that information is possible to
14 determine at the time the notice is provided;
- 15 v. A general description of the breach incident, if that information
16 is possible to determine at the time the notice is provided; and
- 17 vi. The toll-free telephone numbers and addresses of the major
18 credit reporting agencies if the breach exposed a Social
19 Security number or a driver's license or California
20 identification card number.

21 139. The Data Breach described herein constituted a "breach of the security
22 system" of Defendant.

23 140. As alleged above, Defendant unreasonably delayed informing Plaintiff
24 and Class members about the Data Breach, affecting their Sensitive Information, after
25 Defendant knew the Data Breach had occurred.

26 141. Defendant failed to disclose to Plaintiff and Class members, without
27 unreasonable delay and in the most expedient time possible, the breach of security of
28 their unencrypted, or not properly and securely encrypted, Sensitive Information

1 when Defendant knew or reasonably believed such information had been
2 compromised.

3 142. Defendant's ongoing business interests gave Defendant incentive to
4 conceal the Data Breach from the public to ensure continued revenue.

5 143. Upon information and belief, no law enforcement agency instructed
6 Defendant that timely notification to Plaintiff and Class members would impede its
7 investigation.

8 144. As a result of Defendant's violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.82, Plaintiff
9 and Class members were deprived of prompt notice of the Data Breach, and were
10 thus prevented from taking appropriate protective measures, such as securing identity
11 theft protection or requesting a credit freeze. These measures could have prevented
12 some of the damages suffered by Plaintiff and Class members because their stolen
13 information would have had less value to identity thieves.

14 145. As a result of Defendant's violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.82, Plaintiff
15 and Class members suffered incrementally increased damages separate and distinct
16 from those simply caused by the Data Breach itself.

17 146. Plaintiff and Class members seek all remedies available under Cal. Civ.
18 Code § 1798.84, including, but not limited to the damages suffered by Plaintiff and
19 Class members as alleged above and equitable relief.

20 **Eighth Cause of Action**

21 **Violation of the California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA")**

22 **Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.150, *et seq.***

23 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass)**

24 147. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every
25 allegation contained in the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as though fully set
26 forth herein.

27 148. Defendant is a corporation organized and operated for profit or financial
28 benefit of its owners with annual gross revenues of more than \$25 million. Defendant

1 collects consumers' PII as defined in Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140.

2 149. Defendant violated § 1798.150 of the CCPA by failing to prevent
3 Plaintiff's and Class members' nonencrypted PII from unauthorized access and
4 exfiltration, theft, or disclosure as a result of Defendant's violations of its duty to
5 implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to
6 the nature of the information.

7 150. Defendant has a duty to implement and maintain reasonable security
8 procedures and practices to protect Plaintiff's and Class members' PII. As detailed
9 herein, Defendant failed to do so. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's
10 acts, Plaintiff's and Class members' PII, including social security numbers were
11 subjected to unauthorized access and exfiltration, theft or disclosure.

12 151. Plaintiff and Class members seek injunctive or other equitable relief to
13 ensure Defendant hereinafter adequately safeguard employees' PII by implementing
14 reasonable security procedures and practices. Such relief is particularly important
15 because Defendant continues to hold current and past employees' PII including
16 Plaintiff's and Class members' PII. Plaintiff and Class members have an interest in
17 ensuring that their PII is reasonably protected, and Defendant has demonstrated a
18 pattern of failing to adequately safeguard this information.

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 21 1. That the Court certify this action as a Class Action under FRCP 23 and
22 appoint Plaintiff as representative of the Class and his attorneys as Class
23 Counsel;
- 24 2. Granting injunctive relief requested by Plaintiff, including but not
25 limited to, injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect
26 the interests of Plaintiff and Class members, including but not limited to
27 an order:
 - 28 i. prohibiting Defendant from engaging in the wrongful and unlawful

- 1 acts described herein,
- 2 ii. requiring Defendant to protect, including through encryption, all
- 3 data collected through the course of its business in accordance
- 4 with all applicable regulations, industry standards, and federal,
- 5 state or local laws,
- 6 iii. requiring Defendant to delete, destroy, and purge the personal
- 7 information of Plaintiff and Class members unless Defendant can
- 8 provide to the Court reasonable justification for the retention and
- 9 use of such information when weighed against the privacy
- 10 interests of Plaintiff and Class members,
- 11 iv. requiring Defendant to implement and maintain a comprehensive
- 12 Information Security Program designed to protect the
- 13 confidentiality and integrity of the personal information of
- 14 Plaintiff and Class members' personal information,
- 15 v. prohibiting Defendant from maintaining Plaintiff's and Class
- 16 members' personal information on a cloud-based database,
- 17 vi. requiring Defendant to engage independent third-party security
- 18 auditors/penetration testers as well as internal security personnel
- 19 to conduct testing, including simulated attacks, penetration tests,
- 20 and audits on Defendant's systems on a periodic basis, and
- 21 ordering Defendant to promptly correct any problems or issues
- 22 detected by such third-party security auditors,
- 23 vii. requiring Defendant to engage independent third-party security
- 24 auditors and internal personnel to run automated security
- 25 monitoring,
- 26 viii. requiring Defendant to audit, test, and train its security personnel
- 27 regarding any new or modified procedures,
- 28 ix. requiring Defendant to conduct regular database scanning and

- 1 securing checks,
- 2 x. requiring Defendant to establish an information security training
- 3 program that includes at least annual information security training
- 4 for all employees, with additional training to be provided as
- 5 appropriate based upon the employees' respective responsibilities
- 6 with handling personal information, as well as protecting the
- 7 personal information of Plaintiff and Class members,
- 8 xi. requiring Defendant to routinely and continually conduct internal
- 9 training and education, and on an annual basis to inform internal
- 10 security personnel how to identify and contain a breach when it
- 11 occurs and what to do in response to a breach,
- 12 xii. requiring Defendant to implement a system of tests to assess its
- 13 employees' knowledge of the education programs discussed in the
- 14 preceding subparagraphs, as well as randomly and periodically
- 15 testing employees' compliance with Defendant's policies,
- 16 programs, and systems for protecting personal information,
- 17 xiii. requiring Defendant to implement, maintain, regularly review, and
- 18 revise as necessary a threat management program designed to
- 19 appropriately monitor Defendant's information networks for
- 20 threats, both internal and external, and assess whether monitoring
- 21 tools are appropriately configured, tested, and updated,
- 22 xiv. requiring Defendant to meaningfully educate all Class members
- 23 about the threats that they face as a result of the loss of their
- 24 confidential personal information to third parties, as well as the
- 25 steps affected individuals must take to protect themselves,
- 26 xv. requiring Defendant to design, maintain, and test their computer
- 27 systems to ensure that PII in their possession is adequately secured
- 28 and protected,

- 1 xvi. requiring Defendant to disclose any future data disclosures in a
2 timely and accurate manner; and
3 xvii. requiring Defendant to provide ongoing credit monitoring and
4 identity theft repair services to Class members.

- 5 3. An award of compensatory, statutory, and nominal damages in an amount to
6 be determined;
7 4. An award for equitable relief requiring restitution and disgorgement of the
8 revenues wrongfully retained as a result of Defendant’s wrongful conduct;
9 5. An award of reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as
10 allowable by law; and
11 6. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

12
13 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

14 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury for all claims so triable.

15
16
17 DATED: April 9, 2024 **SWIGART LAW GROUP, APC**

18
19 /s/ Joshua B. Swigart
20 Joshua B. Swigart
21 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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